

WHITE HOUSE
CHRISTMAS

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WHITE HOUSE

71.2009 085.04353

Abraham Lincoln's White House

White House Christmas

Excerpts from newspapers and other sources

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Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

LINCOLN LORE

No. 141

FORT WAYNE, INDIANA

December 21, 1931

LINCOLN LORE

BULLETIN OF
THE LINCOLN
HISTORICAL
RESEARCH
FOUNDATION



ENDOWED BY
THE LINCOLN
NATIONAL LIFE
INSURANCE
COMPANY

Dr. Louis A. Warren

Editor

CHRISTMAS AT THE WHITE HOUSE

The social conditions existing during the war between the states makes it improbable that Christmas was featured to any extent at the White House during the time the Lincoln family occupied the executive mansion. There is a story about one incident which happened at Christmas time in 1863 that may serve as an introduction to this monograph.

Long before Christmas a live turkey had been sent to the White House by one of Mr. Lincoln's friends with the suggestion that it be used for the Christmas dinner. Tad, the president's youngest son, won the confidence of the turkey, whom he named Jack, fed him and petted him until the turkey followed him around the White House grounds.

The day before Christmas while the president was engaged with one of his Cabinet members in an important conference, "Tad burst into the room like a bombshell, sobbing and crying with rage and indignation. The turkey was about to be killed. Tad had procured from the executioner a stay of proceeding while he hurried to lay the case before the President. 'Jack must not be killed; it is wicked.' 'But,' said the President, 'Jack was sent here to be killed, and eaten for Christmas dinner.' 'I can't help it,' roared Tad between his sobs, 'He's a good turkey, and I don't want him killed.' The President of the United States pausing in the midst of his business took a card and on it wrote an order of reprieve. The turkey's life was spared and Tad seized the precious bit of paper fled to set him at liberty."

The White House during the term preceding the coming of the Lincolns had been a bachelor's quarters for four years. Three rollicking boys took possession of the premises in the spring of 1861; Robert, age seventeen; Willie, age ten; and Tad, eight years old. While Robert was in Washington for the first few days after the family arrived he soon returned to Cambridge, Massachusetts, where he was a student at Harvard.

Just before the Lincoln family left Springfield, Mrs. Lincoln arranged a party for Willie, whose birthday, December 21, was very close to Christmas. As the party was held on the

22nd, it may have been a joint birthday and Christmas party. One of the invitations has been preserved; it reads as follows:

Willie Lincoln
will be pleased to see you
Wednesday afternoon
at 3 o'clock
Tuesday, December 22nd

The first Christmas in the White House, December 25, 1861, was undoubtedly the happiest one. The children were together on this festal occasion for the last time. There had been one other boy in the Lincoln family but he had been dead for more than ten years. While Christmas probably recalled to the parents the sorrow of his passing, the pleasure they had in the fellowship of their other children would allow them to become reconciled to this earlier loss.

We may feel sure that Abraham Lincoln had visited Joseph Schot's Toy Shop before Christmas and made some purchases which he knew the boys would appreciate. In fact there are well established traditions that he was a rather frequent visitor to this store kept by the old crippled soldier who had fought under Napoleon and who was now content to make wooden soldiers for the children of America's capitol city.

The Christmas season of 1862 was a sad one indeed for the Lincolns. Willie Lincoln passed away when they had been occupying the White House one week less than a year. Mrs. Lincoln is said never to have gone into the room in which the child was laid out, after the funeral services were over.

The loneliness of Tad was pathetic after the loss of his constant playmate, Willie, but two years older than he; and the attempt of the President to serve as a companion to the only son now left at the White House was responsible for the very strong attachment which grew up between father and son.

Robert was ten years older than Tad and was at the executive mansion very little after the Lincoln family took up their residence there.

While Jack, the turkey, did not grace the table at the White House for the Christmas dinner in 1863, some other fowl was substituted, undoubtedly, for this pet bird which had escaped the usual fate of turkeys by Tad's appeal on his behalf.

There was one bit of Christmas joy that came into the lives of Mr. and Mrs. Lincoln on this day which must have made the day in their own family circle a memorable one.

A son of one of Lincoln's close friends in Illinois, who had been serving in the Confederate army, had been captured. Lincoln had an interview with the lad the day before Christmas

with the result that the following telegram was sent to his father in Illinois on Christmas eve:

"Your son has just left me, with my order to the Secretary of War, to administer the oath of allegiance. I send him home to you and his mother."

There must have been a cheerful atmosphere in the White House on Christmas, 1864. Advice of the capture of Savannah had reached the President that morning, and the following day he wrote to General Sherman as follows:

"Many, many thanks for your Christmas gift: the capture of Savannah . . . please make my grateful acknowledgment to your whole army, officers and men."

Another letter written on the day following, suggests a presentation which evidently was received with deep appreciation. He wrote to Dr. John MacLean acknowledging the announcement that the trustees of the College of New Jersey had conferred upon him the degree of Doctor of Laws.

Could he at this time have been reminded of that early political effort when he first offered his services to the people and closed with this announcement:

"If the good people in their wisdom shall see fit to keep me in the background, I have been too familiar with disappointments to be very much chagrined."

Now "a body of gentlemen of such high character and intelligence" had conferred upon him the highest compliment within their power and he replied, "I am most thankful if my labors have seemed to conduct to the preservation of those institutions under which alone we can expect good government—and in its train sound learning and the progress of the liberal arts."

In 1913 the building in which the old toy shop was located was razed. It had seen service for half a century and contributed much to the happiness of the Lincoln children and other Washington boys and girls. It was in reality a monument to the child life of the city and it is to be regretted that it could not have been preserved. It would have recalled many visits of Mr. Lincoln and Tad to this store and especially the memorable one which tradition has recorded as follows:

"Tad teased his father to buy him a company of tin soldiers. These gaily decorated toys stood on wooden pedestals, but the tin general was broken and would not stand. The clerk in charge suggested that a fine upstanding captain might do for a commander and the sale was made." It was this incident which paved the way for the promotion of one of the great generals of the war according to the recorder of this typical Christmas story.

1417; Alexander, 1412; Allison, schuler, 1426; Ames, E. S., 1401; 1421; Anderson, 1408; Andrews, 1409; Angle, 1396, 1398, 1417, 1421; Ault, 1425; Aristotle, 1403; Arnold, 3; Arthur, 1422.

Aramian, 1409; Ballard, C., 1395; M., 1417; Balmer, 1403; Bancroft, 1422; Barden, 1403; Barkley, 1425; Barnwell, 1426; Baron, 1423; Barrett, 1423; Barton, 1401; Bax- 1424; Beecher, 1424; 1424; Bennett, J., 1422; R., 1407; Berger-

7; Berry, 1418; Bes- 1398; Beveridge, 1399; Bishop, 1410, 1417; Bissell, 1425; Bixby, 1395; 1397, 1418; Black, 1424; Blaine, 1400; Blair, C., 1400; Blair, M., 1425; V., 1400; Blondin, 1425; Blunt, 1412; Booth, 1417, 1422; Borg- 1417; Borreson, 1417; 1417; Brady, 1415, 1422; Brook- 1422; Brown- 1417; 1411, 1421; Brumfield, 1403; Bryce, 1421, 1422, 1425; Burlingame, 1400; 1424.

n, 1411, 1419; Car- 1403; Carpenter, 1395; s, 1417, 1420; Chand- 1421; Christ, 1403; Church, 1426; 1424; Clark, N., 1403; Clay, 1423; Cobb, 1399; 1425; Colcord, 1423; C., 1398; Coleman, 1417; Columbus, 1417; 1395, 1407; Corning,

1417; Cresson, 1412; Curran, 1398; Currier, 1424; Cur- 1422; Curzon, 1395; 1423; Czolgosz, 1422. en, 1411; Danford, 1396, 1398; 1424; Davis, D., 1424, 1426; 1419, 1424; de Haur- 1423; Dennison, 1423; 1421; Dole, 1421; 1421; Douglas, 1405, 1421, 1425; Dowl- 1409; Dresser, 1401; er, 1403; Driscoll, 1422; Ducharme, 1421; Dyer,

1396; Edison, 1405; VII, 1397, 1404; 1425; Eifert, 1938, 1421; Eliza- Queen), 1397; Elkins, 1425; Ellsworth, 1395; Emerson, 1400, 1424, 1425. rton, 1403; Faulkner, 1422; Ferran- 1422; Field, 1422; Fillmore, 1422; Flor- 1422; Foote, 1422; Forney, 1423; Fox, 1422; Frazer, 1419; Fremont, 1422, 1424, 1425; French, 1424; Fry,

1417; Galileo, 1403; Gamble, 1403; 1417; Gandon, 1421; Gardner, 1415, 1422; George IV, 1423; George, 1423; German, 1423; Gilmore, 1407; 1412; Grant, U. S., 1406, 1408, 1424; Greeley, 1395, 1398, 1409; Grimes, 1421; Guiteau, 1401, 1408.

1395; Hall, F., 1401; Hall, L., 1423; Halstead, 1411; 1399; Hanks, James, 1413; Hanks, 1413; Hanks, L., 1413, 1417; Hanser, 1410; Harris, 1417; Harte, 1416, 1422, 1425; Haycraft, S. Sr., 1403; Helm, Ben H., 1420; enj., 1426; Helm, E., 1410; Henry, 1423; Henry, P., 1422; Herndon, 1397, 1421, 1426; Hesler, 1421; Hitch- 1423; Hooker, 1395, 1423; Hoover, 1401; 1424; Hungerford, 1412; Hutchinson, 1412; Hynes, 1426. 1422; Ives, 1415, 1425. 1422, 1423, 1425; James, 1422; 1396, 1408, 1425; Johnson, A., 1425;

Kane, 1401; Kelly, 1405; King, 1422; Kitch, 1417; Klement, 1421; Klemm, 1409; Kropf, 1409, 1421; Knox, James, 1417; Knox, Joseph, 1424; Korn, 1403; Kraemer, 1403.

Lamon, 1397, 1399, 1417, 1424, 1425; Lauck, 1401; Lee, 1408; Leland, 1418.

Lincoln, Abraham (President). Acrobat—Blondin, 1423; Addresses, 1402, 1416; Ancestors, 1413; Bibliography, 1396, 1409, 1421; Book of the Year, 1398; Books for Youth, 1405; Cartoons, 1412; Civil War Month, 1408; Cosmopolitan Christian, 1401; "Council of

Litsey, 1418; Lockridge, 1405; Logan, 1408; Lorant, 1398; Lossing, 1424; Lovejoy, E., 1402; Lovejoy, O., 1421; Loyola, 1423; Lud- wig, 1409; Lundy, 1421; Lyon, 1422.

McCagg, 1423; McClellan, 1395, 1411; Mc- Cormick, 1419; McCulloch, 1395; McDougal, 1407; McGowan, 1417; McKinley, 1422; Mc- Lean, 1424; McMurtry, R. G., 1396, 1420, 1421; McMurtry, W., 1422; McNally, 1421; McPherson, 1422.

Mahomet, 1423; Mallison, 1424; Manor, 1422; Manship, 1415; Marble, 1424; Marsh, 1421; Massey, 1403; Mat- tingly, 1409; Maxfield, 1400; Maynard, 1401; Mearns, 1396, 1398; Medill, 1416; Menard, 1417; Meserve, 1413, 1426; Miers, 1396, 1398, 1421; Mil- ler, F., 1412; Miller, G., 1425; Mitchell, 1418; Mon- aghan, 1421; Monroe, 1396; Morrison, 1417; Moser, 1398; Mudd, N., 1396, 1398; Mudd, S., 1396, 1398; Mundelein, 1401; Mulligan, 1421.

Napoleon I, 1423; Napoleon III, 1404; Nast, 1424; Nathan, 1398; Newhall, 1403; New- man, 1407; Newton, 1399; Nicolay, H., 1403, 1405; Nico- lay, Jr., 1400, 1416, 1418, 1425; North, 1421.

Ogden, 1426; Oglesby, 1399; Olson, J., 1403; Olson, L., 1421; Onstott, 1417; Osten- dorf, 1412, 1417; Owen, 1420. Palmer, 1419; Palmerston, 1422; Paradis, 1417; Patton, 1426; Peck, 1422; Peterson, 1417; Phillip of Spain, 1423; Phoenix, 1399; Pitt, 1395; Plato, 1395; Pownall, 1409; Pratt, H. E., 1396, 1403, 1409, 1417; Pratt, Mrs. H. E., 1403, 1417.

Rainier, 1421; Ramsey, 1411; Randall, J. G., 1397, 1398, 1419; Randall, Mrs. J. G., 1397, 1409, 1417; Raymond, 1407; Read, 1426; Reed, 1403; Reynolds, 1422; Richardson, 1422; Riley, 1399, 1420; Riney, 1401; Ripley, 1411; Risdon, 1396, 1422; Robbins, 1417; Roberts, 1412; Robespierre, 1423; Rogers, 1401, 1425; Roosevelt, F. D., 1396, 1421; Roosevelt, T., 1422; Ruggles, 1424; Russell, 1396; Rutledge, 1397, 1401; Ruzicka, 1400, 1409.

St. Cyr, 1401; St. Paul, 1395; Sale, 1400; Saunders, 1424; Schriver, 1417; Scone, 1399; Scribner, 1400, 1409; Scripps, 1401, 1418; Seavy, 1426; Sedgwick, 1422; Sergel, 1409; Seward, 1408, 1419, 1421, 1424, 1425; Shakes- peare, 1403, 1420; Shanks, 1412; Shearer, 1417; Sheri- dan, 1408, 1411; Sherman, 1422; Sherwood, 1403; Ship- lev, 1413; Shutes, 1417; Simpson, 1401, 1408; Smith, 1423; Sparrow, 1413; Squire, 1409; Stanton, 1408, 1411, 1425; Starr, J., 1403; Starr, T., 1396; Stephens, 1423; Stern, 1412; Stoddard, 1398; Stone, 1396, 1398, 1409, 1417; Stuart, 1420; Stump, 1417; Sumner, 1424; Swetnam, 1417; Swett, 1421.

Tansey, 1417; Tarbell, 1399, 1405; Taylor, L., 1417; Taylor, Z., 1395; Theilmann, 1403; Thomas, 1409, 1421; Thompson, M., 1418; Thompson, W., 1410; Thorne, 1425; Tiffany, 1409; Todd, 1420; Tolstol, 1395; Townsend, 1396, 1398, 1399; Trietsch, 1398; Truman, 1422; Trumbull, 1422; Twain, 1399.

Usher, 1425. Valentine, 1403; Vanannan, 1423; Vawter, 1418; Victoria (Queen), 1404; Volck, 1424; Volk, L. W., 1421, 1422, 1423, 1425; Volk, Mrs. W. D., 1424.

Wadsworth, 1422; Wakeley, 1425; Wald- smith, 1403; Ward, Artemas, 1422; Ward, Artemus (C. F. Browne), 1399; Ward, B., 1417; Ward, W. R., 1403; Warren, L. A., 1396, 1409, 1421, 1422, 1426; Warren, L. D., 1412; Warrington, 1400; Washington, 1395, 1402, 1421, 1422, 1424, 1425; Watson, 1411; Watterson, 399; Wead, 1424; Weems, 1402; Wefer, 1417; Weik, 1397; Welles, 1395, 1411, 1421; Wentworth, 1419; Wheeler, B. E., 1417; Wheeler, R. L., 1417; Whitney, 1421; Wiley, 1421; Williams, 1412; Willis, 1424, 1425; Wil- mot, 1419; Wilson, 1417; Winston, 1425; Wise, 1411; Wood, 1424; Woodbury, 1399; Woodward, 1417; Wright, 1422.



SANTA CLAUS LINCOLN

Very little is known about the way the Lincoln family cele- brated the Christmas holidays. When Lincoln was a member of the Illinois General Assembly, the House of Representatives always adjourned for the day. While a Congressman in Wash- ington, D. C., in 1847 and 1848, Lincoln likely enjoyed the holiday recess. While residing in Springfield, Illinois, Lincoln was usually at home with his family during the holidays, even though his mind may have been on other things, as he wrote one or two letters of a political nature bearing the date of December 25. Then, too, there are some traditional accounts of White House holiday activities that have been told and retold every Christmas season.

One could hardly associate Lincoln with Santa Claus unless such an association could take a political turn. A cartoonist, named Beard, depicted Lincoln as a political-military Santa Claus visiting Jefferson Davis carrying the symbols of peace and war. The above cartoon was published in an unidentified newspaper early in the 1860's, and is a part of the great cartoon collection of the Lincoln National Life Foundation.

War", 1425; Editorials, 1406; Elizabethtown, Ky., 1426; Father's Elizabethtown Cabin, 1426; Foundation Research Facilities, 1414, 1415; Gettysburg, 1424; Greatness, 1395; In- auguration, 1404; Index 1426; Indian Chief- tains, 1421; Jackson Editorial, 1423; Laugh- ter, 1399; Legal Case, 1424; Lincoln Lore Editor, 1420; Living Expenses, 1425; Loco- motive Medallions, 1422; Magazines, 1417; Martyred Presidents, 1422; Necrology, 1403; New York Herald, 1425; One Hundred Years Ago, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424; Parent's Mar- riage, 1418; Penny, 1423; Perfect Tribute, 1400; Photographs, 1426; Postage Stamps, 1422, 1423, 1426; Prince of Rails, 1397; Santa Claus Lincoln, 1426; Scotch Cap & Military Cloak, 1424; \$64,000 Question, 1407; Soldier's Reprieve, 1421; Son's Military Career, 1410; Statuary, 1421, 1422, 1423, 1424, 1425; Vice- Presidential Nomination, 1419; Voting for Lincoln, 1425; War Weapons, 1411.

Lincoln, Abraham (grandfather), 1413; Abraham (cousin), 1401; Asa, 1424; Bershe- ba (grandmother), 1413; Edward (son), 1397; John (gr. grandfather), 1413; John Ledyard, 1424; Mary Mudd (aunt), 1401; Mary Todd (wife), 1396, 1397, 1398, 1401, 1417, 1423; Mordecai I (gr. gr. grandfather), 1413; Mordecai II (gr. gr. grandfather), 1413; Nancy Hanks (mother), 1401, 1413, 1418, 1421, 1426; Robert (son), 1397, 1410, 1418, 1420, 1425; Samuel, 1413, 1424; Sarah Bush Johnston (step-mother), 1420, 1426; Thomas (father), 1396, 1401, 1412, 1418, 1420, 1421.

CHRISTMAS

Family's Four Yule Holidays in White House
a Mixture of Happiness and Sorrow

By Ruth Painter Randall

THE STORY of the Civil war itself is almost written in President Lincoln's Christmases. Even in his last December in Illinois, before he left Springfield as President-elect, a letter had come to his home on 8th street which foreshadowed the nation's tragic division.

The letter contained a copy of South Carolina's ordinance of secession. Bob, the Lincoln's eldest son, was curious about it, and Lincoln, not wishing to alarm his teen-age boy, laid his hand affectionately on Bob's head and said lightly that "it must have been intended for a Christmas gift."

The first Christmas in the White House, in spite of the war, had its family joys. The Lincolns were devoted parents, and all three of their sons were gathered with them around the dining table. The

circle included Bob, 18, who was home from Harvard; 11 year old Willie, the boy who was his father over again; 8 year old Tad, a harum-scarum, affectionate little fellow with a lisp, and even the family pets which the Lincolns always had.

The next Christmas, 1862, was a sad one for them. Willie, their bright, lovable, gifted son, had died the February before. Yet they had one great uplift on Christmas day that year; they knew that in just one week there would be issued the President's great Emancipation proclamation which would free the slaves. Both abhorred the cruelty and injustice of slavery, and exultation swept over them when, as Mary Lincoln wrote, "The decree has gone forth that 'all men are free.'"

After Willie's death, with Bob away



President Lincoln and son Thomas (Tad) in White House in February, 1864.

WITH THE LINCOLNS

• Ruth Painter Randall is the author of "Mary Lincoln: Biography of a Marriage," "The Courtship of Mr. Lincoln," "Lincoln's Sons," and "Lincoln's Animal Friends." She is the widow of J. G. Randall, who besides being a professor of history at the University of Illinois, was a distinguished historian and biographer and one of the great Lincoln experts of our time.



Mrs. Randall

at college, both parents clung to Tad and he became their constant companion. They took him with them when they visited the soldiers' camps and the homesick men clustered around the quaint, lively little boy who delighted in giving them the fruit and sweets Mrs. Lincoln often brought them.

The war went into its third year, with men being wounded, killed, and captured. Tad, soldiers, and a pet were to make the Christmas of 1863 one of deep feeling for President Lincoln.

In connection with the pet, he was suddenly confronted with a dramatic incident parallel to one in his boyhood. When he was 6 year old Abe Lincoln living in a log cabin at Knob Creek, Ky., he had a pet pig. When it was an appealing baby pig he fed it and carried it around. Soon it followed him everywhere, and the two roamed the wooded hills together. "That pig," said the grown-up Abraham Lincoln when he told the story to a friend, "was my companion. I played with him and taught him tricks."

But the pig, alas, grew big and fat. One morning Abe saw a heavy pole set up on two crotched posts back of the cabin and a barrel of water standing near. Even a 6 year old farm boy knew the signs of hog killing day.

Horried, Abe took the pig and ran off to the woods. They stayed all day, returning to the cabin at nightfall. Abe's parents that evening explained to him that the hog had been raised to be killed and eaten, that they could not keep it

just for him to play with. The little boy, however, could think only of how he loved his pet.

He meant to get up early the next morning and run off with it again. But it was too late when he awoke; all he could do was run, sobbing, to the woods to get away from what was being done. It was, said Lincoln to his friend, "an awful tragedy" to him.

Late in 1863 Tad discovered a fine, large turkey in the White House grounds. He made friends with it at once, named it Jack, and soon Jack was following the boy around wherever he went.

Just before Dec. 25, a white faced Tad burst into the President's office in the White House, threw himself on his father, and cried out that Jack was about to be killed for the Christmas dinner. "Jack must not be killed," he sobbed, "for that would be wicked."

"But," said his father, "Jack was sent here to be killed and eaten for this very Christmas."

Could those words have stirred a far-off memory? Did the President see then in his mind a little boy in a log cabin pleading with his parents not to kill his pet pig? Tad was sobbing, "I can't help it. He's a good turkey, and I don't want him killed." That was what little Abe had said about his pig so long ago.

President Lincoln turned to his desk, wrote an order, and gave it to Tad. Tad flew with it to stop the execution, and Jack was saved.

That Christmas eve, as Lincoln sat working at his desk, Tad came in with an armful of books which he had received as Christmas presents. He wanted to send them to the soldiers in the camps. "Do you remember how lonesome the men looked?" he asked. The father held the sensitive little face against his own for a moment without speaking. Then he said, "Yes, my son, send a big box . . . and mark the box 'From Tad Lincoln.'"

Perhaps the moment when Lincoln felt most deeply the spirit of Christmas that year was when he wrote a certain telegram. He had learned that the son of Usher F. Linder, a long time friend in Illinois, was one of the Confederate



William Wallace (Willie) Lincoln. The photo was taken in Springfield, Ill.

soldiers who had been captured. The President was taking time and pains to send his old friend that greatest of all Christmas gifts in war time, a son home safe from the war. The telegram to Mr. Linder read: "Your son Dan has just left me, with my order to the secretary of war, to administer to him the oath of allegiance, discharge him, and send him to you. A. Lincoln."

The next Christmas, President Lincoln received by telegram a magnificent present himself. On Dec. 22 came this message from General Sherman: "I beg to present you as a Christmas gift the city of Savannah. . . ." At long last victory and peace were drawing near.

On that Christmas eve Tad again furnished an appealing incident. Two visitors, entering the front door of the White House, almost stumbled over a little group of ragged street urchins whom Tad was leading thru the hall. "I'm fetching them in for dinner," Tad explained as they vanished thru a door. His father's face lighted with a smile as he gazed after this son who had inherited his own great compassion.

These two incidents, the one holding the hope of "peace" and the other "good will toward men," brought the spirit of Christmas very close to Lincoln that year of 1864. It was to be his last Christmas.



Photo courtesy National Archives
Robert Todd Lincoln

December 21, 1958



Photo courtesy Lincoln National Life Foundation
Mrs. Lincoln



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Lincoln Day by Day

A CHRONOLOGY

1809-1865

EARL SCHENCK MIERS

Editor-in-Chief

VOLUME III: 1861-1865

C. PERCY POWELL

Washington : 1960

LINCOLN SESQUICENTENNIAL COMMISSION

copy of Lincoln's letter. He complains to Henry J. Raymond of New York "Times" about misrepresentations of Mississippian, William Smedes, whose writing "Times" has published. "A very mad-man," says Lincoln. *CW*, IV, 154-56.

DECEMBER 19. Mississippian, "a live disunionist, wearing the emblem of secession," calls on Lincoln. When conversation turns to secession, Southerner makes sullen remarks. Lincoln defines stand of his party and presents copy of Lincoln-Douglas debates, autographed. Visitor is visibly chastened. *N.Y. Herald*, Dec. 24.

DECEMBER 20. Thurlow Weed arrives and calls on Lincoln at home, where they confer until mid-afternoon. It is rumored that Weed has received little encouragement for his proposed compromise. Lincoln draws up three short resolutions for presentation to Republicans of Senate Committee of Thirteen. News of secession of South Carolina reaches Springfield and produces sensation. Lincoln, however, receives it calmly. *CW*, IV, 156-57; *N.Y. Tribune*, Dec. 21; *N.Y. Herald*, Dec. 25. Mrs. Lincoln buys more yard goods and edging. *H. E. Pratt*, 150.

DECEMBER 21. Lincoln informs Trumbull of Weed's visit, and says he gave him three resolutions which might do much good "if introduced, and unanimously supported by our friends." He advises Gov. Curtin on Curtin's inaugural remarks: "I think you would do well to express, without passion, threat, or appearance of boasting, but nevertheless, with firmness, the purpose of yourself, and your state to maintain the Union at all hazards." He thanks Francis P. Blair Sr. of Washington for his account of Blair's interview with Gen. Scott. "If the forts shall be given up before the inauguration, the General must retake them afterwards." Washburne has also talked to Scott, and reported. Lincoln writes Washburne to tell commanding general forts must be held or retaken. *CW*, IV, 157-59.

DECEMBER 22. Informed of rumor that Buchanan has instructed Major Anderson to surrender Fort Sumter if attacked, Lincoln exclaims, "If that is true they ought to hang him!" He adds that he has just written to Washburne "to tell General Scott confidentially that I wished him to be prepared, immediately after my inauguration, to make arrangements at once to hold the forts, or, if they had been taken, to take them back again." *ISLA—Nicolay Memo., Ms.* Lincoln writes Major David Hunter that he thinks forts must be retaken, if they fall. Lincoln acknowledges letter from Peter H. Silvester of Coxsackie, N.Y., former colleague in Congress, but has time to write no more than that, and: "If Mr. B. surrenders the forts, I think they must be retaken." He replies to letter from Alexander H. Stephens of Georgia, another former congressional colleague, assuring him that South will not be harmed by Republican rule. *CW*, IV, 159-61.

DECEMBER 24. Two notables arrive in Springfield, Lincoln's old friend

E. D. Baker and David Wilmot of Pennsylvania. Lincoln calls on Wilmot at his hotel and spends most of day. *N.Y. Tribune*, Dec. 25. Lincoln writes to Trumbull. Lincoln has heard that South Carolina forts are to be surrendered. If true, he intends to announce publicly that they are to be retaken, to give Union men "a rallying cry." He thanks Isaac N. Morris, Quincy, for introducing Union resolution in Congress, and asks Hamlin to find New Englander of Democratic antecedents for cabinet. "Or shall I decide for myself?" *CW*, IV, 161-62. Lincoln buys yard goods for his wife, and 11 handkerchiefs for Christmas presents. *H. E. Pratt*, 150.

DECEMBER 26. Lincoln deposits \$400 in his bank account. *Marine Bank Ledger*.

DECEMBER 27. "That popular mania—the collection of autographs of distinguished men," "Herald" correspondent writes, "—has proved of late a source of considerable annoyance to Mr. Lincoln also, and hardly a mail reaches here without bringing him numerous requests." *N.Y. Herald*, Jan. 5, 1861. Lincoln begins daily morning sittings for Thomas D. Jones, Cincinnati sculptor, at improvised studio at St. Nicholas Hotel. This hour enables Lincoln to escape visitors, relax, and think. Among the matters on his mind is struggle for and against Cameron. Lincoln writes memorandum of charges that Cameron bought his election to Senate in 1857, listing witnesses for and against him. He concludes that weight of evidence is for Cameron. Thomas D. Jones, *Memories of Lincoln*, 5-8; *CW*, IV, 165-67.

DECEMBER 28. Lincoln writes Trumbull: "Gen. Duff Green is out here endeavoring to draw a letter out of me. I have written one, which herewith I inclose to you, and which I believe could not be used to our disadvantage. Still, if, on consultation with our discreet friends, you conclude that it may do us harm, do not deliver it." [Enclosure, which states that Lincoln would not oppose constitutional amendment, and that he would uphold right of each state to control its domestic institutions, is not delivered.] *CW*, IV, 162-63.

DECEMBER 29. Lincoln is convinced that Gulf states will secede, and is watching border states "with daily increasing interest." *N.Y. Herald*, Jan. 3, 1861. Lincoln and Nicolay move out of governor's office at state house. Lincoln plans to spend most of his time at home, and Nicolay takes room in Johnson's Building, across from Chenery House. Lincoln expects to come in occasionally. ISLA—*Nicolay Memo*. Lincoln replies to William Cullen Bryant, who warned him about compromises of "well-known politician." Lincoln says he did not press any compromise. "As to the matter of the cabinet, . . . I shall have a great deal of trouble, do the best I can." He writes Seward his reaction to four names Seward proposed for cabinet. Lincoln also answers letter from James Watson Webb, New York editor. Forts must be held or retaken. *CW*, IV, 163-65.

DECEMBER 18. President and cabinet discuss informally "Trent" affair. *N.Y. Times*, Dec. 19. Congs. Colfax (Ind.) and Reuben E. Fenton (N.Y.) urge Lincoln to get army into action or find way to offset hostile public sentiment. *Rice*, 74. President, accompanied by Sec. Seward and Edwin M. Stanton, legal adviser to Sec. Cameron, watches seamen drill at Navy Yard. DLC—JGN, *Extracts from Dahlgren Diary*. Congratulates Alexander II, Emperor and Autocrat of all the Russias, on birth of son to Grand Duchess Olga Teodorowra. *CW*, V, 74-5. At 9:30 P.M. with John Hay walks to Seward's residence for conference, then with Seward to Gen. McClellan's house, where they discuss war until midnight. *N.Y. Herald*, Dec. 19.

DECEMBER 19. President receives Gen. James B. Ricketts, wounded and captured at Bull Run [Manassas], released on parole, accompanied by wife. *N.Y. Times*, Dec. 20. Orders purchase of 50 "Coffee Mill" guns at \$735 each. *Bruce*, 123; *CW*, V, 75-6. In evening Sen. Browning (Ill.) converses with Lincoln and they call on Gen. McClellan. Browning, *Diary*.

DECEMBER 20. Recent report shows President has made 650 appointments of all kinds since August 27. Thirty-one officers have been honorably retired, and 215 promoted. *N.Y. Times*, Dec. 21. President sends to Congress committee report on industrial exhibition to be held in London in 1862. *CW*, V, 77.

DECEMBER 21. President interviews wife of 1st Lt. Robert F. Hunter on behalf of husband courtmartialed and cashiered for drunkenness on duty. *Ibid.*, 78. In afternoon drives with several friends to Anacostia River near Navy Yard to watch army engineers throw 500-foot pontoon bridge across cove. "The President was invited to ride over, and immediately ordered his carriage to be driven across, remarking that if he should get overboard he could wade ashore." *N.Y. Herald*, Dec. 22. Sen. Browning (Ill.) in long conference with President discusses: 1. "Trent" affair; 2. treaty with Mexico; 3. Rothschild offer of loan. Later they visit Gen. and Mrs. McClellan. Browning, *Diary*; *Monaghan*, 190.

DECEMBER 22. Lincolns attend New York Avenue Presbyterian Church and drive Sen. Browning (Ill.) home. Browning, *Diary*.

DECEMBER 23. President signs bill to increase efficiency of navy, and bill to raise duty on tea, sugar, coffee, and molasses. *N.Y. Tribune*, Dec. 24. Transmits to House of Representatives report of secretary of state respecting Asiatic coolie trade. *CW*, V, 79. Secs. Seward, Welles, and Chase call at White House to confer on "Trent" affair. Sen. Sumner (Mass.) urges Lincoln to surrender Mason and Slidell. *Monaghan*, 190-91. [Irwin withdraws \$99 from Springfield Marine Bank. *H. E. Pratt*, 177.]

DECEMBER 24. President approves act authorizing allotment certificates for volunteers. *Stat. L.*, XII, 331. Endorses letter of Robert J. Breckenridge, Danville, Ky., who opposed him for Presidency in 1860 campaign: "I have before said, and now repeat, I would like Dr. Breckenridges son to be appointed as soon as he consistently can." *CW*, V, 79.

DECEMBER 25. Cabinet meets 10 A.M. behind closed doors to consider release of Mason and Slidell, involved in "Trent" affair. Meeting lasts until 2 P.M. E. Bates, *Diary*. Sen. Sumner (Mass.) on invitation reads letters from Richard Cobden and John Bright of England to cabinet urging release of men. French minister appears before cabinet and requests President to give up men and avert war. *Monaghan*, 191. Cabinet adjourns to meet next day and make decision. President concludes: "Governor Seward, you will go on, of course, preparing your answer, which, as I understand, will state the reasons why they ought to be given up." Seward, *Reminiscences*, 189. At Christmas dinner in evening Lincolns entertain large number of guests, including several members of official family and old friends from Kentucky and Illinois. Browning, *Diary*. After dinner President tells Sen. Browning (Ill.) that "Trent" affair has been settled amicably. J. G. Randall, *Lincoln, the President*, II, 49.

DECEMBER 26. Cabinet meets and approves reasons for surrender of Mason and Slidell. Seward, *Reminiscences*, 189. President directs Chief of Ordnance to order 10,000 Spencer repeating rifles. *Bruce*, 116.

DECEMBER 27. President approves bill providing for three commissioners for each state to visit camps and expedite allotment of soldiers' pay. *N.Y. Tribune*, Dec. 28. Sec. Welles shows President letter from George D. Morgan, purchasing agent for navy, under attack by Joint Committee on Conduct of War. DLC—*GW*, *Welles to Morgan*, Dec. 31. Lincoln takes trip to Craney Island. "I took the President on board the 'Pensacola' for her second trial trip. No one else was with us, so we had a quiet time. The President looks grave and absorbed, and a little the worse for cares. It was late when we reached the anchorage off Alexandria." DLC—*JGN*, *Extracts from Dahlgren Diary*; *Bruce*, 21. Lincoln tells Sen. Sumner (Mass.) that he is preparing an emancipation doctrine. Charles Sumner, *Charles Sumner, his Complete Works*, VIII, 14.

DECEMBER 28. Lincoln inquires of Sec. Seward: "Might we not let Gov. Moorehead loose?" [Former Gov. Morehead (Ky.) was released January 6, 1862.] *CW*, V, 81. Asks Gen. Totten: "Do we have need of the property this good old patriot so kindly offers us?" [Philip Winebiddle offered land at Erie, Pa., or Pittsburgh as armory site.] *Ibid.* Mrs. Lincoln holds afternoon reception. *N.Y. Tribune*, Dec. 31.

DECEMBER 29. Gen. Ambrose E. Burnside arrives in Washington and spends most of day in consultation with President and Gen. McClellan. *N.Y. Times*, Dec. 30. President and Burnside call on Asst. Sec. Fox in morning.

DECEMBER 23. President sends for Asst. Sec. Fox before breakfast. Reason unknown. DLC—GB, *Fox, Diary*. Requests written opinions from members of cabinet on admission of West Virginia into Union. CW, VI, 17. Receives memorial from Mil. Gov. Andrew Johnson and prominent men of state asking that Emancipation Proclamation not apply to Tennessee. *Washington Chronicle*, Dec. 4. Considers proposal of Gen. Haupt to form military council of seven to plan campaigns and determine policies. DLC—EMS, *Haupt to Lincoln*, Dec. 22, 1862. John Pitcher, boyhood friend, calls on Lincoln about son recovering from wound received at Battle of Cedar Mountain. DLC—RTL, *Pitcher to Lincoln*, Dec. 25, 1862. Mrs. Lincoln prepares to serve Christmas dinner to wounded in hospitals. *Philadelphia News*, Dec. 24. [Irwin withdraws \$9 from Springfield Marine Bank, interest on scholarship at Illinois State University. H. E. Pratt, 177]. Lincoln concludes letter of condolence to Fanny McCullough, daughter of former court clerk of Bloomington, Ill., killed in action, Dec. 5: "The memory of your dear Father, instead of an agony, will yet be a sad sweet feeling in your heart, of a purer, and holier sort than you have known before." CW, VI, 16-7.

DECEMBER 24. President sends congratulations to Francis Joseph I, Emperor of Austria, on forthcoming marriage of brother. *Ibid.*, 18-9. Transmits to Congress report from Sec. Seward on subject of consular pupils. *Ibid.*, 19. Cong. Samuel S. Cox (Ohio) interviews Lincoln on behalf of Col. Samuel A. Gilbert. *Ibid.* Sen. Sumner (Mass.) spends evening with President discussing Emancipation Proclamation. *Forbes*, I, 349. Mrs. Lincoln borrows "Read, Thomas B. The Wagoner of the Alleghanies; a poem of the days of seventy-six" from Library of Congress. [Thomas Buchanan Read, *The Wagoner of the Alleghanies* . . . , Philadelphia, 1862.] DLC—Arch, *Borrowers' Ledger 1861-63*, 114.

DECEMBER 25. President and Mrs. Lincoln visit many hospitals in afternoon. *Washington Chronicle*, Dec. 27.

DECEMBER 26. Cabinet meets. Principal topic for attention is new state of West Virginia. Welles, *Diary*.

DECEMBER 27. President and Atty. Gen. Bates confer with Rev. Samuel B. McPheeters, pastor of Pine Street Presbyterian Church, St. Louis, who was ordered by Provost Marshal Franklin A. Diek on Dec. 19 to leave state within 10 days because of sympathy with rebellion. CW, VI, 33. Lincoln directs Gen. Curtis: "Let the order in regard to Dr. McPheeters and family be suspended until you hear from me again." *Ibid.*, 20. In evening Sen. Sumner (Mass.) reads aloud to President memorial from clergymen regarding Emancipation Proclamation. Gen. Burnside also at White House in evening. *Forbes*, I, 352-53.

DECEMBER 28. President explains to Gen. Hiram Walbridge why he has not appointed him military governor of District of Columbia. *CW*, VI, 21-2.

DECEMBER 29. President reads Emancipation Proclamation to cabinet for criticism. Creation of new state of West Virginia under advisement. Welles, *Diary*. Gens. John Newton and Cochrane of Gen. Burnside's staff interview Lincoln on Burnside's plans and ask his removal. *Williams*, 265. Sen. Browning (Ill.) and Judge Hughes call on Lincoln in evening on behalf of Maj. Key. Browning, *Diary*. Lincoln writes Gen. Butler: "I am contemplating a peculiar and important service for you, which I think, and hope you will think, is as honorable as it is important. I wish to confer with you upon it. Please come immediately upon your arrival at New-York." *CW*, VI, 22.

DECEMBER 30. At cabinet meeting President provides members with copy of Emancipation Proclamation and requests them to offer suggestions. *Ibid.*, 23-6. President informs Gen. Burnside: "You must not make a general movement of the army without letting me know." *Ibid.*, 22-3.

[From December 31 to January 2, 1863, Battle of Murfreesboro (Stone's River) is fought in Tennessee.]

DECEMBER 31. Special cabinet meeting at 10 A.M. to make final revision of Emancipation Proclamation. Welles, *Diary*. Gen. Burnside, in Washington to testify before courtmartial, confers with President on military matters. DLC—RTL, *Burnside to Lincoln*, Dec. 30, 1862; *Williams*, 223. President signs agreement with Bernard Kock, promoter and self-styled "Governor of A'Vache Island," for colony of freedmen on Ile à Vache, dependency of Haiti. *Monaghan*, 272. Interviews "old lady of genteel appearance" who has been ordered by government to vacate building where she lives and keeps boarders. *CW*, VI, 33. Approves act admitting state of West Virginia into Union, and for other purposes. *Stat. L.*, XII, 633; *CW*, VI, 17. [Irwin deposits \$1,195.83 in Springfield Marine Bank, principal and interest on Smith, Edwards & Co. note. *H. E. Pratt*, 165.]

Cong. Edwin H. Webster (Md.), interviews President and asks exemption from draft as conscientious objector. President gives him card to Sec. Stanton. DLC—RTL, *Moore to Lincoln*, Dec. 18, 1863. Visits Ford's Theatre to see "Merry Wives of Windsor." Hay, *Diary*. Introduces Joshua F. Speed and Joshua Tevis, of Kentucky, to Thurlow Weed, "and I think their mission an important one." CW, VII, 77. Lincoln writes James H. Hoes, jeweler of Chicago: "I have received from the Sanitary Commission of Chicago, the Watch which you placed at their disposal, and I take the liberty of conveying to you my high appreciation of your humanity and generosity, of which I have unexpectedly become the beneficiary." [Lincoln received watch for gift of draft of Emancipation Proclamation to Northwest Sanitary Fair, where it sold for \$3,000, making him largest individual contributor and award winner.] *Ibid.*, 75.

DECEMBER 18. President believes Gen. Schofield must be relieved of command of Dept. of Missouri. *Ibid.*, 78-9. Confers with Alexander M. White of Pennsylvania representing Gov. Curtin (Pa.). DLC—RTL, *Bates to Lincoln*, Dec. 18, 1863. Attends second lecture on Russia by Bayard Taylor, former secretary to minister at St. Petersburg, at Willard's Hall. Washington *Chronicle*, Dec. 19; Hay, *Diary*. Requests Cong. Washburne (Ill.) to superintend preparation of medal for Gen. Grant. *Hunt*, 231; CW, VII, 79.

DECEMBER 19. Sec. Seward reads to President another dispatch from Cassius M. Clay, abusing Emperor Napoleon. *Dennett*, 139. President and Mrs. Lincoln invite members of Congress, other public dignitaries, and officers of Russian vessels now in American waters to reception at White House from 1 to 3 P.M. Washington *Chronicle*, Dec. 19; Washington *Star*, Dec. 19. In evening Mrs. Charles Craig, of Arkansas, accompanied by H. T. Blow, calls on Lincoln and asks for pass for herself and husband to Arkansas to raise cotton on their farm. CW, VII, 83-4. President asks Gen. Grant if, without embarrassment, Gen. Milroy could be assigned "a place." *Ibid.*, 80.

DECEMBER 20. President replies to Henry C. Wright, lecturing agent of Massachusetts Anti-Slavery Society: "I shall not attempt to retract or modify the emancipation proclamation; nor shall I return to slavery any person who is free by the terms of that proclamation, or by any of the acts of Congress." *Ibid.*, 81.

DECEMBER 21. President interviews Cong. Calvin T. Hulburt (N.Y.) relative to deserters in Canada. DLC—RTL, *Hulburt to Lincoln*, Dec. 21, 1863. Approves joint resolution tendering thanks of Congress and medal to Gen. Grant. Washington *Chronicle*, Dec. 22. Remains at War Dept. while decoders read message, intercepted in mail at New York, intended for Judah P. Benjamin, Secretary of State (CSA). D. H. Bates, *Lincoln in Telegraph Office*, 71-2. President informs Sens. Foster (Conn.) and Dixon (Conn.) he has sent up nomination of Henry Hammond to be marshal of

Connecticut. *CW*, VII, 82-3. Sends note to Gov. Peirpoint (Va.): "Please come up and see me to-day." *Ibid.*, 83. Comments, in letter to Sec. Stanton, on aspects of "strikes in the Ship-yards," social influence of St. Louis upon Gen. Pope, and future of Gen. Schofield. *Ibid.*, 84-5.

DECEMBER 22. President transmits to Senate two conventions between U.S. and Belgium relating to Scheldt Dues, imposts upon navigation in inland waters. *Ibid.*, 87. Lincoln and Secs. Seward and Welles constitute cabinet meeting. Welles, *Diary*. President recognizes Henry Préant as vice consul of Russia at Philadelphia. Washington *Chronicle*, Dec. 24. Interviews former Sen. Francis Gillette (Conn.) on recommendation of Sen. Sumner (Mass.). DLC—*RTL*, *Sumner to Lincoln*, Dec. 22, 1863. Replies to petition from citizens of St. Louis: "I have never interfered, nor thought of interfering as to who shall or shall not preach in any church. . . . If, after all, what is now sought, is to have me put Dr. M. [McPheeters] back, over the heads of a majority of his own congregation, that too, will be declined." *CW*, VII, 85-6. Orders Gen. Gilman Marston, military commander at Point Lookout, Md.: "If you have a prisoner by the name Linder—Daniel Linder, I think, and certainly the son of U[sher] F. Linder, of Illinois, please send him to me by an officer." *Ibid.*, 87. Directs Sec. Welles to "suppress any further publication of any part of" correspondence captured aboard Confederate ship "Ceres." *Ibid.*, 87-8.

DECEMBER 23. Lincoln interviews William H. Craft, corporal in Co. C., 82d New York Volunteers, who fears arrest as deserter, and gives him protection back to Army of Potomac. *Ibid.*, 89. Confers with Sen. Lane (Kans.) about affairs in Missouri and Kansas and about nomination of Gen. Schofield to be major general. Hay, *Diary*. Relates dream in which he is among plain people. One of them remarks: "He is a very common-looking man." President replies: "Common-looking people are the best in the world: that is the reason the Lord makes so many of them." *Dennett*, 143. Lincoln has third interview with Sen. B. Gratz Brown (Mo.) concerning conditions in Missouri. *Ibid.*, 140. Transmits to Congress report regarding claims of Peruvian citizens. *CW*, VII, 88. Requests Sec. Stanton: "Please see this Lady who is a Sister to our gallant and brave friend, Gen. Reynolds, who fell at Gettysburg. Please oblige her if you can." *Ibid.*

DECEMBER 24. Atty. Gen. Bates at White House for conference. E. Bates, *Diary*. President clarifies status of Gen. Banks: "I have all the while intended you to be *master*, as well in regard to re-organizing a State government for Louisiana, as in regard to the military matters of the Department." *CW*, VII, 89-91.

DECEMBER 25. Lincoln reads to John Hay and others article he wrote last summer upholding constitutionality and expediency of draft. Hay, *Diary*. Suggests to Bayard Taylor that he prepare lecture on "Serfs, Serf-

dom, and Emancipation in Russia." *CW*, VII, 93. Plans to extend practical benefits of Amnesty and Reconstruction Proclamation to people of rebellious districts. Record books will be sent to various points to receive subscriptions to oath. Hay, *Diary*.

DECEMBER 26. President has audience with Baron de Stoeckl, to receive thanks of Imperial government for reception given Russian navy. Washington *National Republican*, Dec. 26. Interviews David Clark, member-elect of Maryland Legislature, regarding imprisonment of former Gov. Thomas G. Pratt (Md.). DLC—*RTL, Blair to Lincoln*, Dec. 26, 1863. Releases prisoner of war and writes to U. F. Linder: "Your son Dan. has just left me, with my order to the Sec. of War, to administer to him the oath of allegiance, discharge him & send him to you." *CW*, VII, 94-5. Orders Judge Adv. Gen. Holt: "Let the Surgeon General [William A. Hammond] be put upon trial by a court, as suggested by the Judge Advocate General." *Ibid.*, 93-4. Writes Sec. Stanton: "Shall we go down the river to-morrow? And if so, at what hour shall we leave the wharf? and which wharf? Mrs. L. & Tad, perhaps would go. I am not at all urgent about it, & would not have you incur the least inconvenience for it." *Ibid.*, 95.

DECEMBER 27. *Point Lookout, Md.* President and Sec. Stanton visit Gen. Marston and encampment of Confederate prisoners at Point Lookout. Hay, *Diary*; *CW*, VII, 95.

DECEMBER 28. *Point Lookout, Md., and Washington.* President and Sec. Stanton return from visit to prison camp at Point Lookout. *Ibid.*; N.Y. *Herald*, Dec. 29.

DECEMBER 29. Cabinet meets in afternoon with Secs. Seward and Chase, and Postmaster Gen. Blair absent. Welles, *Diary*. Delegation from Baltimore calls on President and protests removal of Joseph J. Stewart as collector for Second District. *CW*, VII, 97. President sends notice that he will receive army officers at New Year's Day reception at 11:30 A.M. DNA—*WR RG 94, Adj. Gen. Off., Letters Received*, Box 711.

DECEMBER 30. President recognizes José Carlos Tracy as consul of Peru at New York. Washington *Star*, Jan. 2.

DECEMBER 31. President issues additional instructions to direct tax commissioners for district of South Carolina. *CW*, VII, 98-9. Holds audience with Count Piper, and receives volume of engravings. Washington *Star*, Dec. 31.

DECEMBER 23. Cabinet meets. Welles tardy. President and Secs. Seward and Stanton discuss Welles' presentation of case against Beverly S. Osborn, New York newspaperman. Welles, *Diary*. President issues order for protection and safe conduct from New Orleans or Memphis, Tenn. to Red River and its tributaries to James Harrison, of St. Louis, trading under rules of Treasury Dept. *CW*, VIII, 178.

DECEMBER 24. Lincoln recognizes R. Barth as consul of Grand Dukedom of Baden at St. Louis. Washington *Chronicle*, Dec. 30. Receives Richard C. Parsons, representative of Common Council of Cleveland, who presents importance of establishing navy yard on Great Lakes. *DLC—RTL, Allen to Lincoln*, Dec. 20, 1864. Sec. Welles calls on President and gets death sentence commuted and obtains pass to Richmond for Laura Jones. Welles, *Diary*. O. H. Browning confers with Lincoln about permitting James W. Singleton, Illinois politician and cotton and tobacco buyer, to go to Richmond for purpose of buying cotton. Browning, *Diary*. President and Mrs. Lincoln send letters to Soldiers' Fair in Springfield, Mass. Washington *Chronicle*, Jan. 1, 1865. President acknowledges receipt of volume "commemorative of the celebration in honor of the passage of the Ordinance of Emancipation of the State of Louisiana." *CW*, VIII, 179. Endorses letter of Samuel D. Lockwood, Batavia, Ill.: "Judge Lockwood, the writer, is one of the best men in the world." *Ibid.*, 179-80. Writes Sec. Seward: "Gen. C. S. Todd, once much of a man, is now superannuated, and would be an incumbrance upon the Commander in New-Orleans, unjustifiable in me to impose upon him." [Charles S. Todd, assessor of internal revenue at Owensboro, Ky., asked for military appointment under Gen. Banks.] *Ibid.*, 181.

DECEMBER 26. President gives Christmas reception at White House. N.Y. *Herald*, Dec. 29. Writes Gen. Sherman: "Many, many, thanks for your Christmas-gift—the capture of Savannah. When you were about leaving Atlanta for the Atlantic coast, I was *anxious*, if not fearful; . . . Now, the undertaking being a success, the honor is all yours; for I believe none of us went farther than to acquiesce. . . . But what next? I suppose it will be safer if I leave Gen. Grant and yourself to decide." *CW*, VIII, 181-82.

DECEMBER 27. President confers with Sec. Fessenden regarding appointment to West Point. *Ibid.*, 184. Cabinet meets. Welles, *Diary*. Lincoln sends for O. H. Browning to come to White House as early as convenient. *IHi—OHB, Hay to Browning*, Dec. 27, 1864. Confers again with him on cotton trade; also inquires about releasing Mrs. William N. Symington from Fort Lafayette, N.Y. Browning, *Diary*; *CW*, VIII, 185. Writes John Maclean, president of College of New Jersey, Princeton, N.J.: "I have the honor to acknowledge the reception of your note of the 20th of December, conveying the announcement that the Trustees of the College of New Jersey have conferred upon me the Degree of Doctor of Laws." *Ibid.*, 183-84.

